

Message Text

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17

ACTION IO-14

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SUBJ: SECVISIT: UNGA: EMBASSY RECOMMENDS BILATERAL TALKS
WITH SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: A. STATE 170108 B. DAKAR 4687, C. DAKAR 4717
D. DAKAR 4873

SUMMARY: IN VIEW OF SENEGAL'S ACTIVE ROLE IN AFRICAN AND
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS SECRETARY KISSINGER
MEET WITH SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTER ASSANE SECK AT 29TH
UNGA. END SUMMARY.

1. AS REPORTED REFTTEL B SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTER
ASSANE SECK WILL HEAD HIS COUNTRY'S DELEGATION TO 29TH
UNGA. IN RECENT YEARS SENEGAL HAS TAKEN ACTIVE ROLE IN
ACTIVITIES OF GROUP OF 77, IN NON-ALLIGNED GROUP WHERE IT IS
MEMBER NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING BUREAU (NACB), AND IN LAW OF
SEA NEGOTIATIONS. IT HAS HAD KEY LEADERSHIP ROLE IN AFRICAN,
CARIBBEAN, AND PACIFIC COUNTRY NEGOTIATIONS WITH EUROPEAN
COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES. IT REMAINS A LEADING VOICE IN
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FRANCOPHONE AFRICA AND IN FRANCOPHONE INSTITUTIONS,

INCLUDING OCAM AND THE WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (CEAO). A SENEGALESE IS FAVORED CANDIDTATE, SUPPORTED BY UNITED STATES, FOR POSITION OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF UNESCO. SENEGAL'S PRESIDENT SENGHOR HAS REAFFIRMED HIS INTERNATIONAL STATURE AS AN AFRICAN LEADER, IN PART THROUGH HIS EXTENSION GOOD OFFICES IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND PAIGC. THUS, SENEGAL PLAYS SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, ANDNIN VIEW OF THIS SIGNIFICANT ROLE I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO ARRANGE MEETING FOR FOREIGN MINISTER SECK WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AT 29TH UNGA.

2. IN MY DEALINGS WITH HIM, SECK HAS BEEN COOPERATIVE AND OPEN. A FORMER UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR AND A SEASONED POLITICIAN, HE IS WELL KNOWN AND RESPECTED BY DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY AND BY INTELLECTUALS THROUGHOUT WEST AFRICA. HE HAS BEEN PERSONALLY ACTIVE IN MEETING OF NON-ALIGNED GROUP. AS NOTED REFTEL D, SECK MAY BE LESS INCLINED THAN PRESIDENT SENGHOR TO SUPPORT NORTH KOREA. HIS HAND MIGHT BE STRENGTHENED ON THAT ISSUE BY A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY WHICH MIGH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, COVER KOREAN QUESTION.

3. THE SECRETARY MIGHT ALSO TAKE OPPORTUNITY OF SUCH A MEETING WITH SECK TO PUT FORTH US VIEWS ON ENERGY CRISIS, RAW MATERIALS PROBLEMS, FOOD PROBLEMS, NEEDS OF MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED LDCS, AND LDC PROGRAM OF ACTION FOR NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONMIC ORDER (STATE 184584). IN ADDITION, HE COULD DISCUSS SUCH ISSUES AS LOS, PORTUGUESE-AFRICAN RELATIONS, FUTURE OF GUINEA-BISSAU, AND SAHEL ASSISTANCE.

4. SENEGALESE MIGHT WELL BRING UP SOME OF THESE SAME ECONOMIC ISSUES, AS WELL AS KOREAN QUESTION AND SOTHEAST ASIAN POLICIES SINCE THEY HAVE ALREADY INDICATED THESE TOPICS AS SUITABLE FOR TALKS IN DAKAR BETWEEN EMBASSY AND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS (REF C).

5. I BELIEVE BILATERAL DISCUSSION BETWEEN SECRETARY AND FORMIN SECK COULD EFFECTIVELY SUPPLEMENT OUR EFFORTS ENLIST SENEGALESE UNDERSTANDING, AND POSSIBLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUPPORT, FOR OUR POSITIONS. I WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE SHOULD MEETING BE SCHEDULED AND WOULD BE GLAD SUBMIT FURTHER COMMENTS ON POSSIBLE TOPICS OF DISCUSSION AT THAT TIME.
AGGREY

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